

Andy Walker

I must say I really enjoyed the Al Weiner interview on RECC on Sunday 21st Jan (Al Weiner-not Randi Steel!! Ed) presented by their American correspondent "Dave" which gave the listener an indepth behind the scenes view of Radio New York International. Well done to all those involved, it made a change to the other output on 48m on a Sunday. On the same day, London rockers R-FM had troubles with a raid from the RIS. Not only did they take the FM transmitters but the SW rig went as well. Although the studio was safe, a mid-point link was also taken so I've been told, but this wasn't confirmed. R-FM say it could take about another 4 weeks to get another SW tx back on the air, and as myself and R-FM are sharing 6275 at the moment, there could be a relay of the station via the WFRL tx, we shall have to see. R-FM were back on the FM in London the following Sunday.

Rumours are flying about that a powerful 250 watt AM tx is about to come on the air "somewhere" in London, can't seem to find out a station name or who's behind it, but DXers should listen around 1170 to 1179 KHz. It's also believed that the master rig has been tested on 1413 KHz which is west London's incremental station Sunrise Radio frequency. I was told it completely blocked out Sunrise, which could only be heard within two miles of their tx site, nice one! Another DX tip, try 48m the odd Saturday afternoon between 3-6 PM. You might hear something.

With the winds of change in Eastern Europe, many of us are waiting to see if any new free radio stations will come on the air from those now, freer parts of the world. I think East Germany could be the first.

I've been writing for ACTIVITY for a year now, and next month, this column will take a look at the radio scene in Texas, USA. I'm taking a short holiday and hopping across the pond for a fortnight. So for a honest view of the American radio Walker-style, don't miss the next issue. I might even bump into John England in Dallas, then I can tell him what a pratt he really is!!

WFRL note: "Tender Trip" in Feb, hosted by Keith Archer for this time, Ian's not available.

Monthly Shortwave Free Radio News from
3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford,
Essex, RM3 0HH, England.

ACTIVITY MAGAZINE

Feb '90

22

QSL

THE VOICE OF SCOTLAND

QSL

WEEKEND MUSIC

RADIO Scotland's

WMR confirmation of reception

To
Date 24/9/89
Time 0111/0300BST
Freq 6310 + 6240
Power 20Watts

Signed *John Walker*

42 Arran close, cambridge, england



STATION NEWS

ALL TIMES ARE UTC

THE MEDIUM WAVE STATIONS

Starting with the big news that back on the airwaves again are RADIO PAMELA, the English SW/MW station operated by Steve Most. They were first heard on Fri 26 Jan 1950-2226* with an "engineering test transmission" on 1624 with Steve playing mostly back to back oldies with a few announcements. Reception was very much the same as when the station were last active on MW (summer '88), fairish. A new address is now in use: 131 Napier Road, Gillingham, Kent, England. Perhaps SW will also be re-activated soon (last heard Sep '88)??

Now onto the Netherlands: RADIO ARMARDA were heard Fri 12 -Sat 13 Jan on 1614 between 2357-0022* with a strong signal. Dutch pop music was heard along with some announcements in Dutch and English. They were also noted late on Christmas Day on 1623 with "international" programmes. One of the eldest stations on MW, they began broadcasting in 1969. Op: Jan Willem. Add: Postbus 9, 8150 AA Lemelerveld, Holland.

It's not unusual to hear some strange things on 186m from the Dutch stations and the night of Sat 13 Jan was no exception. RADIO 807 were on 1616 (heard 2235-2304*) with music ranging from Dutch type to "Mouldy Old Dough"!! English/Dutch announcements here and a good signal too. Add: Postbus 341, 3770 AH Barneveld, Holland.

Rock from the 60s and 70s was caught from RADIO DELTA towards the end of their broadcast on Fri 19 Jan on 1620 (2227-2244*). A good signal noted, they closed with Joe Cocker's "With a little help from my friends". After close, it appeared the op had a QSO with Radio Nooigedacht (tentative). Address for Delta: Postbus 41, 7260 AB Ruurlo, Holland.

A new station were heard Sun 19 Nov going by the name of RADIO RONO INT'L (heard on 1617v 0007-0110*) with the op announcing a test transmission. Music from UB40, Elton John and Talking Heads noted. Add: Postbus 114, 9410 AC Beilen, Holland.

RADIO MARIANNE and RADIO DERBY made a joint transmission from Nieuwlande on 1611 late Sat 16 Dec. A "mixed dish" of folk, pop and disco music was heard. Marianne via Postbus 6, 7918 ZG Nieuwlande, Holland and Derby via Postbus 14, 7916 ZG Elim, Holland. Ann in Dutch only.

On Boxing Day (2317), ZENDER CURACOU were active on 1609 with "Moonlight Shadow" noted at tune-in. After which, the station continued with Dutch accordion and folk tunes. Add: Kruisselt Laan 14, 7587 NM De Lutte, Holland.

Also on Boxing Day, ZWARTE ZEEMAN (tentative-not 100% sure of station name) played a Dutch version of "Down by the Riverside". Noted at 2342 on 1612.

On New Year's Day the frequently heard RADIO TIJDBREKER were active on 1617. Tentative add for this station: Postbus 73, 7160 AB Neede, Holland.

Finally to Italy where ANTENNA 2000 transmit on 1512, they have been heard in GB (not by us) but reception on the continent is more likely. Best time to check is late at night after BRT Belgium has switched off it's tx.

* indicates time of close

THE SHORT WAVE STATIONS

Propagation conditions at the moment are "very good" according to BRI's Roger-Davis. This is due to the high sunspot count and critical frequency. The solar maximum is expected in the next few months too. In turn, the conditions are favourable for the stations currently using 15 MHz as well as those on the usual 6 and 7 MHz bands. In contrast, February will be the last month of the current "season" for Trans-Atlantic 6 MHz tests. But overall, things on the shortwave are going well and we can look forward to a fairly good summer.

GB ROCK-FM were heard on 6275 for the first 3 Suns in Jan along with an "engineering test transmission" on Sat 6 Jan but disaster struck on Sun 21 Jan when the tx sites were raided by the authorities, both the SW and

FM rigs were taken but no-one was caught. The station expect to be back on the air in late February. Add: 105 Newport Road, Leyton, London E10 6PH, England.

Also in the city, WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON started the year with their "New Year's Music Game" on their regular broadcasts (7 and 14 Jan) and the winner has now been announced. Coming up in February are the final two regular 1st and 2nd Sun transmissions after which you'll hear WFRL irregularly. Before all this though, the station will transmit this Saturday, 3rd February between 1000-1200 on 6275 with Andy Walker playing "weird" music.

Later the same afternoon, Andy's other project (on FM) will be put out on shortwave. This is RADIO MI AMIGO who'll be active 1500-1800 with the channel expected to be around 6230 (could change). In return for reception reports are the station's peach coloured stickers. Add: 37B Colby Road, Upper Norwood, London, SE19 1HA, England.

ATLANTA RADIO had a quiet celebration for their 11th anniversary on Sun 21 Jan but were heard from around 1030 until disappearing around 1445, the frequency was 6223. Mark Stafford hosted the first 45 mins and included some records from January 1979, the month Atlanta hit the shortwave. After this many "talk" shows were heard, an interview with Chris (Dave) Cooper about his times on the high seas with Caroline and the VOP (he used to operate Empire Radio on SW in the late 70s). There was also a special "Sounds of the Seas" which looked at the shows highlights since it started. 25-30 watts were announced as the station's power and Mark added that the broadcast in mid-December carried just 8 watts.

FALCON RADIO continue to be heard on a regular basis, early Suns on either 6870 or 6848. Sat 6 Jan gave an additional transmission and on Sun 14 Jan an "engineering test" using low power was announced but still produced a good signal. In fact, the station's signal-strength has appeared to improve over the past month. Logo: "The Rock of Europe". Add: PO Box 109, Northampton, England. The envelope should be addressed to MAC and not Falcon.

Heard with a mostly good signal on Sun 28 Jan were FREESOUND INT'L with their last Sun broadcast on a clear 6200. Programmes included Mark King with a selection of rock music, Steve West with the "Radio Show" and Richard Grahame with oldies.

Transmitting a couple of times in Jan were RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL on new 6290, their regular "DX Programme" at the start of the month carried an interview with Randi Steel of the US offshore venture, Radio New York. The 11 MHz outlet has not been heard during the month, presumably because of the interference that appeared in December.

Each Sunday the "Big O", RADIO ORION are still heard on 6299 and in Jan Mike Wilson, Rod Lucas and Paul Fraser have been noted. In fact Mike now seems to be back to regular shows after his break. He featured the "Best of 89" on 7 Jan. Phone lines have been available over the past month and the station has received some calls for their trouble. Closedown is currently later at 1500.

BRITAIN RADIO INT'L continued to be heard with regular broadcasts in Jan but only one of their two planned tests to North America were carried out. The single test went out early Sun 7 Jan 0030-0415 but at the latter time a component blew in the 50 watt tx (used for the occasion). More tests are expected in Feb early on Suns 4 and 18 Feb, probably starting around 0400 or 0500 this time on either 6230, 6240 or 6270. The current schedule for BRI's normal service is: 2nd Sun- 1000 Jayne, 1045 Roger Davis, 1200 "Top Tracks", 1245 "Golden Years of Offshore Radio" and 1315 "A-Z of Singles". 4th Sun- 1000 "Radio Tapes", 1030 Roger Davis, 1200 "BRI Radio File", 1245 "Chart Climbers Past and Present" and 1330 "Rock Show". New QSLs are now available. Add: 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wilts etc.

Expected on the air Sat 27 Jan were DELTA RADIO although we heard nothing at all here, however, a check for them wasn't made until 1300 due to having to put back up our antenna which had blown down in the strong gales of last week. The station are scheduled for the last Sat in each month but could appear elsewhere. Tune to RECC this Sun (4 Feb) for possible news since Norman knows op Pete Edwards well.

News just in has answered our earlier question, RADIO PAMELA do expect to be back on shortwave soon with around 50 watts. Op Steve Most says MW is running 60 watts at the moment and this was also on Sun 28 Jan until late. Postcode on the end of the new add: ME7 4HH.

Off to Scotland now where WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO gained an excellent response to their Xmas broadcasts, over 100 letters from all over Europe plus US/Canada arrived at the mailing address in Cambridge.

RADIO FREEDOM INT'L continue their 1st and 3rd Sun broadcasts on 6205 and were heard on 7 and 21 Jan resp. Op: Alan Kidd. Add: Dept R, 67 Elm Row, Edinburgh, EH7 4AQ, Scotland.

RADIO GLORIA INT'L were heard Sun 14 Jan with a test and QSO on 6315. Add: 23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, EH12 5YR.

Following the close of Radio Orion at 1500 on 7 Jan, on came DX-20 for a QSO and commented that he had problems with the tx. The transmission on 6301 sounded fine here. No address is available for the op here though.

Con A new station presumed to be transmitting from the continent are QUALITY-AM, they were heard Sun 28 Jan at 1500 on 15058. Heard by WMRs Jack Russell who commented that they have programmes that "puts many current day stations to shame". Paul Alexander (ex Radio Viking, World Music Radio, FRBC etc) was heard on the station. It was announced that they could be heard at 1900 Suns on 9985. Postbus 85455, The Hague, Holland 2508 CD is a tentative address noted by Jack.

Tape-station RADIO WAHNSINN were noted Sun 7 Jan on 7430 and have since received 16 letters for this, 11 from West Germany, 3 from East Germany and 1 each from Italy and Sweden. The station are putting out programmes bi-monthly and will next be on in early March. Further details on this planned transmission next time.

Heard via relay 7489 on Sun 7 Jan were RADIO POWERPLAY with their first programmes. East German DJ Johnny Fantasy was hosting and gave a phone number for calls. Add: Postbus 65027, 3002 DA Rotterdam, Holland.

RADIO REBEL INT'L is a new German tape-station with programmes in English, German and Dutch, consisting of pop/rock plus oldies together with free radio info and letters. All reception reports are confirmed with a QSL letter, note and station info. They were founded by two "radio freaks" in October 1989 and main man is Steve Van Daalen. Add: c/o BP 130, 92504 Rueil Cedex, France.

RADIO DX-34 made a rare appearance Sun 7 Jan 7440 via RWI. Last known add: Panoramastrasse 24, 7016 Gerlingen, WG.

Active Sun 14 Jan on 7492 were the PIRATE FREAKS BROADCASTING SERVICE operated by Pirate Andy, they were heard in Sweden too with 1-2 signal-strength. PFBS were also back on 15050 around 1300 on Sun 21 Jan.

RADIO WAVES INT'L continue to be heard most Suns on 7440 with fair signals and now have a new booklet available which features logs plus news about RWI and it's associated relay-stations. Plans are to change from 41m down to 6320 and to transmit into the afternoon on this new frequency.

A rare broadcast from Holland's RADIO SANTANA could be heard late Sun 21 Jan at 1438 on 6315. Add: Postbus 46, 7160 AA Neede, Holland. Not heard here for some time, until this particular broadcast that is.

RAINBOW RADIO GERMANY were received Sun 28 Jan on 6240 with poor reception during which the "Mailbox" show was being aired. We think that the presenter said that RRG would not be back until they'd replied to the letters that had come in recently. A spoof promo for PIN-Magazine was also noted for reasons best kept a part-secret. RRG are also transmitting currently Saturday afternoons around 1400/1500 on either 6240 or 6315, this is a replacement for the Sat night service due to the poorer conditions at night during the winter months.

Back on the air after a long break are RADIO NORTHLIGHT, they were making use of the new 15 MHz band for free radio these days. A "live test" was carried out on 15040 Sun 21 Jan (heard 1200-1300) with a "quite strong" signal. Last active in 88, last add: Postfach 6403, D-2300 Kiel 14, WG.

FRS HOLLAND were expected to return with their "new sound" Sun 21 Jan but were not heard. Neither has their "FRS Goes DX" magazine come through at the time of writing (Tues 30 Jan). Illness may be due to these delays.

East Germany's "Free Radio Sheet" reports that RADIO BRIGITTE are on the air every last Friday of the month at 0800 on 7490. An odd time for an odd station - their modulation has remained rough and distorted for years now so an ID won't be a problem!! Add: Brigitte Van Gelder, Postbus 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen, Holland.

Ireland Well not only has Ireland gone off the map radio-wise, it's SW listeners are either very few or are not writing to stations. Jack Russell says that for all his letters, only 1 came from the "emerald isle". The activity from stations remains very little still.

RADIO DUBLIN were heard for most of Jan on 6911 but appeared to be off this past weekend (27-28 Jan).

Broadcasting Suns 14 and 21 Jan were OZONE INT'L with Prince Terry playing music from the 60s. Mostly fair signals were noted. Add: 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, etc.

Radio Flamingo, SW, 1980, Finland, studio
078 60 min, DJ Beaver (=Tapani Ripatti), F&E&D, disco soul
Radio Bristol, SW, 1981-1988, Finland, studio
079 30 min, Grigor, soul, F&E
080 15 min, Grigor, X-mas 1982, country&west., F&E
Radio Caroline, Lahti, FM 97 MHz, stereo studio
081 120 min, 30.5.1983, Wolfman Jack&Johnny Walker, F, disco rock heavy
Radio Weekend, SW, 1975, Finland, studio
082 15 min, F&E, Ahmed Ahne, rock
Radio Saturnus, SW, 1976, Finland, studio
083 15 min, Susi Pulliainen, F&E, rock
084 15 min, F&E, rock
Radio Piratinga, SW, 1976, Finland, studio
085 15 min, entertainment, F&E&S.V
Radio Urbino, SW, 1975, Finland, studio
086 15 min, E&F, fast rock-px, a rock
087 30 min, rock, F&E
Radio Free Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland
088 15 min, Clint Eastwood, rock
DX-Radio Summertime Sound, Valkeala, FM, SDA
089 30 min, Kauko Kuunteliija, disco
Radio El Condorpassa, SW, 1979-1980, Finland, studio
090 30 min, Gringo, F&E
091 15 min, like above
092 30 min, 3.2.1980, Finland
Radio Relax, SW, Finland, 1988, studio rec
093 30 min, Flash Gordon, Autumn 1988, disco
Radio 95, Tampere 95 MHz, Finland, 1980, F.all different px's
094 45 min, summer '80, really interesting px, studio
095 45 min, 12.10.1980, the last px, on the air rec
096 15 min, 8.6.1980, Finland

The FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN FINLAND has a sales list available full of free radio recordings (many rare ones) amongst other items. Recommended for anyone collecting such tapes.

FRC - FINLAND
PO Box 82
SF-40101 JYVASKYLA
Finland

Keep in touch with
Free Radio Campaign
FRC - FINLAND
P.O. Box 82
SF-40101 JYVASKYLA
Finland

Sca News just in that RADIO METEOR were noted in Sweden on Christmas Eve on 6235 and Christmas Day on 6240, this latter broadcast was only audible for a few minutes before being jammed (unintentional) by Rainbow Radio Germany. The 11 MHz transmissions appear to be inactive at present since we have heard nothing on these. Can be contacted via the FRC-Finland address.

Heard on Xmas Day on 6275 by our listener in Sweden were RADIO MAYDAY with announcements and echo effects. Again, contact is via the FRC-Finland maildrop.

NZ 4IFR-NEW ZEALAND were relayed via Radio Orion (6300) and RWI (7440) Sun 14 Jan with music from New Zealand and Australia. The presenter said that the Orion relay might have to close if response continues to be bad. You don't have to write direct to NZ to contact 4IFR, both Orion and RWI will pass on any letters.

USA

MOST ACTIVE STATIONS OF 1989

1	Free Radio One	45
2	Pirate Radio Net	35
3	Hope Radio	34
4	Radio USA	29
5	Zodiac Radio	23
6=	WKND	20
	WJDI	
7=	WBRI	18
	WENJ	
8	CHGO	17
9	Voice of Stench	14
10	R. Free Massachusetts	13
11=	Radio Garbanzo	11
	Samurai Radio	

* Compiled by the "Pirate Pages"

Stations currently known to be sometimes active on 15 MHz are: VOICE OF LARYNGITIS (15050), RADIO FREE MASSACHUSETTS (RFM) (15050), EAST COAST PIRATE RADIO (15063), VOICE OF THE NORTH (15047) and KNBS (15050). There are a few more also but these seem to be more commonly mentioned. Going

down in frequency, KNBS has made use of 12 MHz recently, the exact channel being 12030. Also HOPE RADIO intend to be active on the 11950 area soon.

Another careful check of the 7 MHz band on an early Monday morning in January held out some hope that we might hear some stations from the US. Hopes were raised when conditions appeared to be good, both WWV in Colorado and WWVH in Hawaii were coming in well on 15000. Also, a South American TS was noted on 5000, coming from either Ecuador or Venezuela. But after a promising start, nothing was heard in terms of free radio activity, It does seem far easier for Euros to make it to America but not vice versa. Only two ideas on this: A) Americans listen more often and B) The 6 MHz band is more clear for reception. Perhaps listeners in Europe will do better in putting their energy in monitoring the 15 MHz band and above 10.

We've mentioned the US-based sheet the "Pirate Pages" a number of times in the past six months or so. It's very good for checking out the US scene overall and is published every two weeks. Add: "PiPa", PO Box 628, Slanesville, WV 25444, USA. And as a sample of some sort, here's an extract from their latest bulletin (19 Jan).

LOGS

E.C.P.R: 15063v, 1/7, 1916-1939* Var. rock. 3 ID/add anmnts by M. MD - add. weak sig (Zeller,OH)

Hope R: 7425, 1/11, 0229-0250 Usual DX pgm & comedy. WV add 1st time. Sed wud stop reading ancient PopCom stuff, if fresh tips sent in from SWLs + wud use info de ACE & PiPa. Must've txd to AY (Zeller,OH) Yup

RPM: 15050, 1/21, 2345 Not hrd hre, but HV sed he was on (AY) 7510, 1/22, 0105-0122+ SIO:322 Usual instr mx, comedy monologs & ados by m & YL. Hrd 1 or 2 FR anmnts. RPM Mailbag pgm. Sounded fun, but killed by RTTY (AY) I guess this means I get 1990 QSL #1...AY

R.F.Willy: 7415, 1/21, 0200-0309* Abdul w/new studio, prizes to callers & giving fake #, locococa-mobile ad, some QRM, then killed by CW #s stn (Spoonier,MA)

R.USA: 7417, 1/15, 2311-2346 IDs, promos w/NY add, punk mx, ad for Krusco low sensitivity rx & wents of M L King. Ymtr on & off in mid-pgm, must've been having probs (Arthur,NY) 7463, 1/18, 2340 Hrd carrier & a few words & IDs in RTTY QRM. Weak. Sed testing new xmtr (Arthur,NY)

Secret Society R: 7410, 1/13, 2248-2315* Rock, IDs & MD add w/OM. Eassy Audio (Zeller,OH)

WFO:NY: 1615-1620 area, 1/22, 0321-0351+ Only hrd pieces of IDs. Hrd "Sunshine of Your Love" by Cream & poss mx by B-52s & Red Hot Chili Peppers. Def. pirate: no jingles, ads, etc & long tx by M DJ. ideas? PSE QSL!(Yoder,WV)

Unids

1620, 1/15, time? Vry weak pirate--not spur. Rotk mx (Spoonier,MA) 1630 1/13, 2257-2301* SIO:354 Strong dead carrier & off. Hazzarding a guess, maybe WJDL tuning up on 1630? Strength righth (Smith,NY) 1620, 1/15, 0348-0405 PM mode? OM/YL w/SW discussion, so def not MW spur. Local airport TIS blows by FM reception. Best in widest AM width, but still distorted (Many on AMARC net rept unid ethnic mx here w/similar mod - (Zeller,OH) 7415v, 1/8, +0151-0207* Var rock & soul mx, most played part way thru, VFO swishing up & down. Took dive 0206. On later, but too weak for copy (Zeller,OH) 7416, 1/14, 2107-2105* SIO:242 Just hrd 1 instr song & off (Connor,PA)

Pirates of the Past

RADIO ZODIAC INTERNATIONAL

The idea to start a free radio station by the original RZI team was first thought of in June 1974 when plans were drawn up for the first transmission. This took place over the Easter weekend in March 1975 on 6225 KHz. Due to various problems though the first successful broadcast did not take place until 15th June 1975, again on 6225. Sporadic broadcasts were continued throughout 75, 76 and 77 on various channels with varying degrees of success. All these transmissions were from "fixed" locations (eg houses). Transmitter power was usually 30 watts and the station had a stand-by available of 20 watts output.

It was then decided to start regular transmissions every 4th Sunday of the month on either 6270 or 6275 depending on what channel was clearer. These started on Christmas Day 1977 and New Year's Day 1978. From the March 78 transmission a full schedule was used and "mobile" sites were used (eg fields). RZI then found that by broadcasting on a regular basis (esp fixed schedule) a larger and more consistant audience were built up supplying them with programme comments and reception reports.

And so Radio Zodiac continued for a few years before they were heard for the last time on Sunday 24th August 1980 (acc to our reporter). Here's a typical schedule:

Time (GMT)	Programme	Time in brackets Oct-Feb inc.
0930 (1030)	Stuart Clarke.....Punk Show.	
1000 (1100)	Dave Hunt.....Top 10 Albums Chart.	
1030 (1130)	Roger Vosene.....ZO-DX	
1115 (1215)	RZI Free Radio News programme.	
1130 (1230)	Mark Anthony.....Disco Show	
1200 (1300)	Request/Oldies show.	
1230 (1330)	Guest DJ or French/German programme.	
1300 (1400)	Closedown.	

R.Z.I

"Every 4th Sunday of the month on 6.27MHz

this is R.Z.I. the

International Voice of Good Music!"